

the Nation happened during their high school years. The first moon landing and Woodstock happened only 27 days apart. And just 5 weeks before graduation, in a reflection of the profound tension in our Nation, 13 unarmed students were shot at Kent State, four fatally.

Some in their generation warned, "Don't trust anyone over 30." Now, as the class of 1970 approaches 70, its members can look back on 50 years of lives well lived. This class can boast of significant achievement, as its members include, among many other graduates of great distinction, elected officials, physicians, lawyers, real estate developers, orchestra conductors, musicians, magazine publishers, and at least one juggler.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our very best wishes and congratulations to the Walt Whitman High School class of 1970 as its members gather—1 year late—for their 50th reunion.●

#### TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE BARN

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is my honor to pay tribute to Stephanie Barna, who is retiring October 15 after more than 30 years of Federal service. A dedicated public servant, a fierce advocate for our Nation's men and women in uniform, and an astute legal mind, the Senate Committee on Armed Services has been extremely fortunate to have Ms. Barna as Republican General Counsel for the past 3 years.

Ms. Barna joined the Committee on Armed Services in November 2018, after decades of working within the Department of Defense both as a uniformed officer and as a civilian. As a career Senior Executive at the Pentagon, Ms. Barna held critical positions that focused on Total Force management, personnel matters, and improving the lives of our servicemembers and their families. Most recently, she performed the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis. Before that, she served as senior policy adviser to then-Under Secretary of Defense Robert Wilkie; Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; performed the duties of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; and Deputy General Counsel for Operations and Personnel in the Office of the Army General Counsel.

Ms. Barna began her public service career in 1989 as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Ultimately, she retired from the U.S. Army Reserve in 2011 in the grade of colonel. She is also qualified as an Army Jumpmaster, and if she is willing to jump out of a perfectly safe plane, she is definitely able to work in Congress.

As a member of my staff on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Ms. Barna played a critical role in the drafting and enactment of the fiscal

year 2020 and 2021 National Defense Authorization Acts, NDAA. Because of her work and commitment to bipartisan solutions, we successfully enacted the 59th and 60th consecutive NDAA's when many speculated it couldn't be done. I am grateful for her work this year to help usher the fiscal year 2022 NDAA toward the finish line as well. With creativity and tenacity, Ms. Barna shepherded important policy reforms that strengthened national security, improved the management of the Pentagon, and bettered the lives of our servicemembers.

Over her career, Ms. Barna received numerous, well-deserved accolades, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award, the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service, and the Department of the Army Exceptional Civilian Service Award—twice.

Most telling to her leadership, Ms. Barna has never asked for recognition. She is a tireless worker, wholly dedicated to serving her Nation. If you were to look up the definitions of "competent," "capable," and "grace under fire" in the dictionary, I am sure you would see her picture.

Ms. Barna leaves behind a legacy of getting things done, of doing what is good and right, and fulfilling the law to the best of her understanding. Because of her, the Department of Defense operates better, our troops are better cared for, and long-standing institution of the U.S. Senate live on. While she will leave big shoes to fill on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, I wish her very well in her well-earned retirement. For her service, she has my thanks and the thanks of a grateful nation.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SUSAN MEUSCHKE

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I am honored to recognize Susan Meuschke, executive director of the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence—NCEDSV—who will officially retire on September 30, 2021.

Ms. Meuschke has been a champion for victims of domestic violence and their families for more than three decades. Her career in advocacy and awareness of the problem of family violence in our communities began when she was a volunteer for the Committee to Aid Abused Women in Reno, NV. It was there, while listening to the struggles and the courage of those dealing with family violence, that she found her lifelong passion for helping those in need. Ms. Meuschke then went on to work with NCEDSV for 32 years and was instrumental in developing the organization into a powerful force in the State of Nevada with 10 full-time staff members, a variety of consultants, and offices in both Reno and Las Vegas. Ms. Meuschke is also a founding member of the Nevada Domestic Violence Prevention Council and a former member of the National Coalition Against Domes-

tic Violence Steering Committee. In 2019, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak proclaimed February 1 as a day in honor of Ms. Meuschke, a fitting tribute for such a remarkable woman.

It has been an honor to work with Ms. Meuschke to help grow domestic violence programs. While I was Nevada's attorney general, I worked closely with Ms. Meuschke to ensure we passed legislation to create dedicated funding for domestic violence programs through fees on marriage licenses. Before her retirement, Ms. Meuschke and NCEDSV were also working on a bill to increase statewide funding for domestic violence services and to create funding for sexual violence services. These efforts reflect her dedication to working across the aisle to build a safer, more caring world for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

During 2020 and the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Meuschke worked hard to ensure that Federal coronavirus relief funding delivered to NCEDSV went to programs aimed at providing education and support to survivors in rural communities. The funding also sought to improve the financial independence of survivors through the Financial Empowerment Microloan program. Ms. Meuschke was crucial in seeing that the funds were distributed equitably to programs that would make the biggest difference in the lives of survivors.

As Ms. Meuschke enters her retirement, I want to make sure her decades of strong advocacy and empowerment are recognized for the important impact they have had in the State of Nevada. First as Nevada's attorney general and now as a U.S. Senator, I have been fortunate to work side-by-side with Ms. Meuschke to support families and make our communities safer. NCEDSV is not only a strong advocate for policies that protect victims but a resource for survivors who are looking for help. Much of its strength can be attributed to Ms. Meuschke's leadership and her unwavering resilience and fortitude to advocate on behalf of all survivors.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)